Final Version 3 of 3



# South Bend Wastewater Utility Rates 2010 and beyond

- Meeting the Federal CSO Mandate—a 20 year historic investment in environmental infrastructure
- · Demonstrating commitment to best in class environmental stewardship
- · Keeping rates as affordable as possible given these goals

### Moving Forward on CSO Long Term Control Plan-Recap

- We reported what how we did on implementation of the plan over the last 4 years (transparency on where we have been).
- We have explained what needs to be done over the next 4 years to continue the plan (clear vision on where we are going and why).
- We have a federal mandate from EPA to comply with the Clean Water Act.

# Moving Forward on CSO Long Term Control Plan- Why?

- We have a *City Plan* mandate to protect the St. Joseph River, make smart investments in infrastructure, and be good environmental stewards.
- We have a clear message from the community advisory panel to emphasize human health---hence the phase 1 focus on curing basement sewage backups while also reducing overflows to the river.

## Moving Forward on CSO Long Term Control Plan- Again ?

- We implemented a 79 % increase over the last 4 years as we ramped up the revenue base of the municipal wastewater utility to get a serious start on the CSO LTCP.
- We have great pressure from EPA to ramp up spending to achieve compliance with the CWA as soon as possible---South Bend and other CSO communities are asking for 20 years to keep it affordable.

# Moving Forward on CSO Long Term Control Plan- How Much/ What For ?

- We need to raise about \$70 million capital over the next 4 years to:
  - preserve the treatment plant and maximize wet weather capacity---a key CSO LTCP Feature (\$15 million),
  - do normal extensions and replacements of aging sewers (\$16 million) and
  - continue to make progress on the CSO LTCP (\$39 million)

#### Moving Forward on CSO Long Term Control Plan- Rate Impact?

- In order to raise all capital we need to increase sewer rates.
- Initial ATB rate case scenario to raise all capital operations and engineering staff would like in the plan was determined by Crowe to be 16, 24, 13 and 9 % or a cumulative 77 % increase next 4 years this was rejected

### Moving Forward on CSO Long Term Control Plan- Rate Impact?

- Mayor asked for rates constrained to single digit increases with gradualism on remaining 2010 increase
- Crowe responded with 8 % for remainder of 2010, and 9 % each year 2011-2013--this only raised \$ 32.5 million in capital will not fly with EPA/DOJ

### Moving Forward on CSO Long Term Control Plan- Rate Impact ?

- Council asked a more modest approach than Mayor had asked.
- Crowe ran rates analysis to just meet legal bond covenants on existing bonds and use the 40 % coverage capital—this resulted in 8%, 9 %, 6 % and 2 %---this generated \$8.2 million capital out of coverage would be rejected by EPA/DOJ.

### Moving Forward on CSO Long Term Control Plan- Rate Impact?

- Running a blended scenario to buffer rates and raise the \$ 70 million to move CSO LTCP forward without enforcement action driving the program—two key components:
- First we will strategically cap taxes paid for this historic investment in utility plant in service—essentially cap taxes paid by municipal wastewater utility at a 5 %/year growth rate from current taxes (\$2.1 million/year in 2010) and this will add about \$ 12 million capital
- Second we will supplement what this will raise up to the \$ 70 million needed over the next 4 years with a City pledge of EDIT toward aspects of the CSO LTCP—this supplement needs to be \$ 10 million of the total \$ 70 million capital need.
- Buffered sewer rates will increase 8 % in the second half of 2010 and 9 % per year in 2011-2013 raising about \$ 60 million.
- Final Rate Study figures will be introduced in ordinance form on first reading later this month.

